

calling attention to the programs of scientific meetings and to other activities connected with the annual assembly. The comment here made is practically the last call to the seventieth annual session. All members who can arrange their work to permit attendance and participation in these general sessions and scientific meetings, therefore, are urged to make every effort to do so.

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Four Morning Sessions.—The plan of exclusively allocating the morning meetings for general sessions which was inaugurated last year, met with such favorable response, that most probably it will henceforth be followed. The programs, in brief outlines, follow:

On Monday morning, reports of the President and other officers and associated agencies will be given; this being the time when the work of organized medicine will be emphasized;

On Tuesday morning, papers and discussions on topics and studies related to internal medicine will have first place; the session concluding with the Clinical-Pathological Conference in which guest speakers will take part;

On Wednesday morning, a series of papers sponsored by the Section on General Surgery will be presented, and

On Thursday morning, subjects on medical preparedness will be brought forward, with participation by high ranking officers of the medical corps of Army and Navy, who will direct attention to phases of their work and needs.

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Tuesday Afternoon Entertainment Feature Is Discontinued.—The plan in vogue for so many years, of having no scientific meetings on Tuesday afternoon—in order to provide for entertainment features—has been discontinued. Experience has shown that the designated interlude for recreation and pleasure was a distinct inconvenience to those who found it possible to attend only a part of the session, since the arrangement not infrequently permitted them to be present at only one of the meetings of the specialty in which they were particularly interested.

Accordingly, the twelve scientific sections of the Association will hold meetings on two or more of the four afternoons, the large sections on general medicine and general surgery holding conferences on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and bringing their four-day series to a close on Thursday afternoon with a program in which joint panel discussions will be held.

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Guest Speakers, Films and Exhibits.—Guest speakers for the General Sessions come from Columbia University, New York (Robert F. Loeb, M. D., of the Department of Practice of Medicine); Mayo Foundation, Rochester (Waltman Walters, M. D., of the Surgical Section); Tulane University, New Orleans (John H. Musser, M. D., of the Department of Medicine). These well-known mem-

bers of the profession will present papers and take part in both the general and section meetings.

On each of the four mornings, medical and surgical films will be displayed, a different film going on the screen at the beginning of each half-hour.

Scientific exhibits by members of the Association, as well as by public health agencies and other affiliated bodies, will add to the interest and value of the meetings.

The technical-commercial exhibits will be in greater evidence than in any previous year, and likewise will challenge careful attention.

For many weeks all space at the headquarters, Hotel Del Monte, has been spoken for. In the January issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 30, information was given concerning the hotels on the Monterey peninsula. In the current issue, on page 251 appears a map showing the location of most of the hotels, and this may be a convenient reference for those who are making their first acquaintance with one of the most alluring sections of California.

The Woman's Auxiliary will have its headquarters at Del Monte Lodge, but registration facilities will be maintained also at Hotel Del Monte.

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Special Meetings on Sunday, May 4.—For a considerable number of members, the annual session work will really commence on Sunday, May 4, at which time various study groups in radiology, pathology, and cancer work will hold their meetings.

The County Society Secretaries and the Council will also hold meetings on Sunday.

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Complete Program Will Be Mailed to All Members.—Besides the skeleton list of papers, given on pages 165-175 of this issue, the full program, containing abstracts of all papers and other information, will be mailed to each member as soon as possible. Inspection and perusal of these are urged and suggestions requested. Above all, however, the Council and section officers urge that every effort be made by members to be present, if only for one or two days of the session, that they may actually take a personal part in the scientific, organization and fraternal conferences.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE: STATUS OF PENDING MEASURES

Present Status of Legislation.—Whatever else may be stated concerning the extra tension in these days of national emergency, it may be said that up to the time of this writing, prospective legislation dealing with public health and medical standards has pursued its course with less heat and excitement than in several previous sessions of the California Legislature.

In the March number, on pages 135-137 was given a list of the large number of proposed laws having implications that indicate more or less intimate relationship to public health and scientific medicine. Comment is made concerning several of

the measures in other reports which appear in this issue.*

Just how strenuous a battle will later occur in connection with the State Administration's compulsory health act cannot be foretold. Unless signs are at fault, the bill will probably fail of enactment, and so will not be placed on the Governor's desk for signature. That does not mean, however, that its proponents will abate in their efforts to have such a law enacted in California.

The two measures sponsored by the House of Delegates at Coronado, in May, 1940 (pound law, and physicians' privileges on highways), failed to receive favorable committee consideration, and their fate is accordingly sealed, so far as the present legislative session is concerned.

In the list of bills printed in last month's issue are several that are worthy of special observation, and their course at Sacramento will be carefully followed by the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation.

Full reports concerning the status of the various measures will be given at Del Monte, probably at the Monday morning meeting, and also to the House of Delegates. Delegates will thus be able to transmit all information to component county societies.

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

Education of Medical Students an "Essential Profession."—At a time when the Government is making more than strenuous efforts to emphasize the need of a full-time output in "essential industries," it seems strange that the important rôle and place which medical men occupy in all armies and navies that are 100 per cent efficient, seemingly should not be properly appreciated by the constituted governmental and military authorities. For, under the present conditions, in a five-year military plan (and five years may be a minimum period) the United States will be dealing with armed forces comprehending a standing army of at least 1,500,000 men in service each year, with a possible four or more million to be inducted before the five-year set-up is put into practical operation.

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Army, Navy, "Essential Industry" Citizens, and Civil Population, All Require Well-Trained Physicians and Surgeons.—The havoc and demoralization, not only of the armed forces (but of men and women in the "essential industries," and of the millions of fellow citizens in civil life who are blood relatives to men in the Army and Navy), which could accrue through medical supervision that was lacking either in quality or quantity, or both, is something that must appall every physician who has given any thought thereto.

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Medical Students Worthy of Deferment Classification.—It is granted that it may be possible to take some 8,000 physicians from civil

practice and transplant them into military service without calamitous results of an immediate nature as regards the civilian population.

But not to safeguard the steady graduation and accession of well-trained physicians, year by year, for the next decade or so, through recognition of the eligibility of students in Class A medical schools to be placed in a deferment class, with as much right as men who are in "essential industries," is difficult to understand.

All are agreed that certain occupations related to production of war materials should be in the "essential industries" group. But, with the same reasoning and with as great or greater right, so also should medical students be placed in an "essential profession" group. Assuredly, the health and lives of our soldiers should be construed as quite as vitally important for conservation as is the uninterrupted output of war appliances and ammunition. If this fact is not realized, the day will come when citizens will rue their lack of foresight.*

POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN CALIFORNIA

Increasing Interest in Postgraduate Courses.

Continuation or postgraduate work in California, as judged by the progress made in several states, may be said to be still in its infancy cycle. It is true that progress has been made in California, and during this last year, the increased interest in postgraduate courses has been particularly heartening. Especially so, since the component county societies that were the pioneers in the movement, are the very ones now giving to the postgraduate work its additional impetus. The conclusion to be drawn is that once the advantages of clinical, postgraduate or refresher courses have been demonstrated to county medical society members, the demand for continuation of the work makes itself evident. The Third Councilor District, for example, which held a postgraduate conference in Santa Barbara on March 29, will sponsor another refresher course this fall to be held in Bakersfield.

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Every County Society Should Have a Postgraduate Committee.

—In recent issues of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, brief mention has been made of county societies coöperating in these important activities. The hope is again expressed that every county society will appoint, as one of its standing groups, a postgraduate committee. The California Medical Association Postgraduate Committee, 450 Sutter, San Francisco, invites correspondence from every county society that has not yet taken up the work. The Central Office will be glad to advise and coöperate in fullest measure and requests the opportunity to be of service. If your society does not have a postgraduate committee, why not take steps to provide for its appointment at your next meeting?

* See Council report and minutes, pages 183 and 230.

* For other comment concerning medical preparedness, see page 233.